

STAR BLAZER

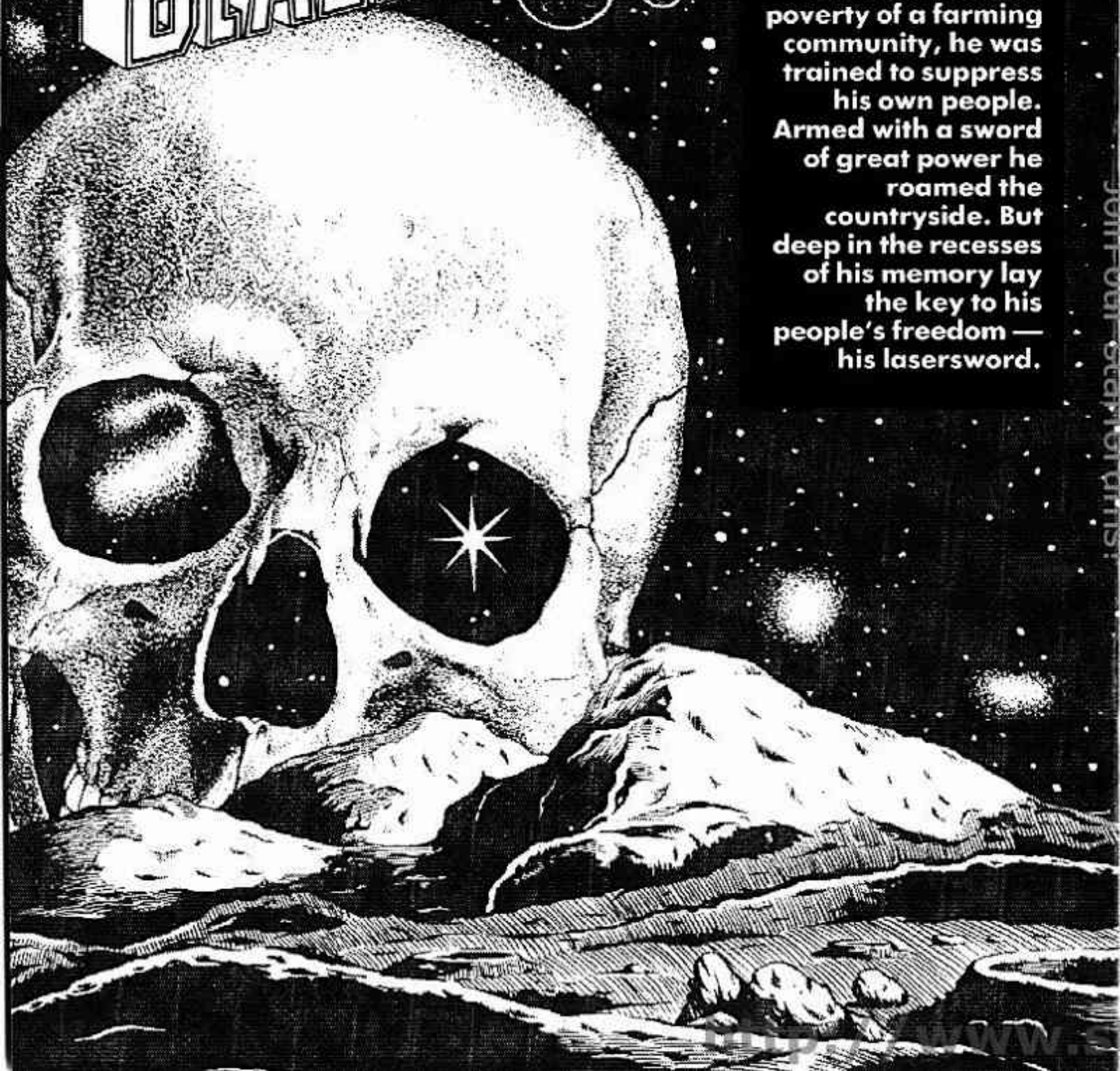
FANTASY FICTION IN
PICTURES No 170 24p



STAR BLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES

Plucked from the poverty of a farming community, he was trained to suppress his own people. Armed with a sword of great power he roamed the countryside. But deep in the recesses of his memory lay the key to his people's freedom — his lasersword.



THE LASERSWORD

IT WAS TAX GATHERING TIME FOR THE VILLAGERS IN THE LANDS RULED BY THE CRUEL LORD RASPDEN. CARRIED BY THEIR GROTESQUE AIRSHIPS HIS MEN TOURED THE VILLAGES.



THE LORD RASPDEN'S POWER LAY IN
HIS SERVO-KNIGHTS

WHERE IS THE REBELLIOUS
HEADMAN WHO HAS DARED TO
REFUSE THE TAX DUE TO MY LORD?





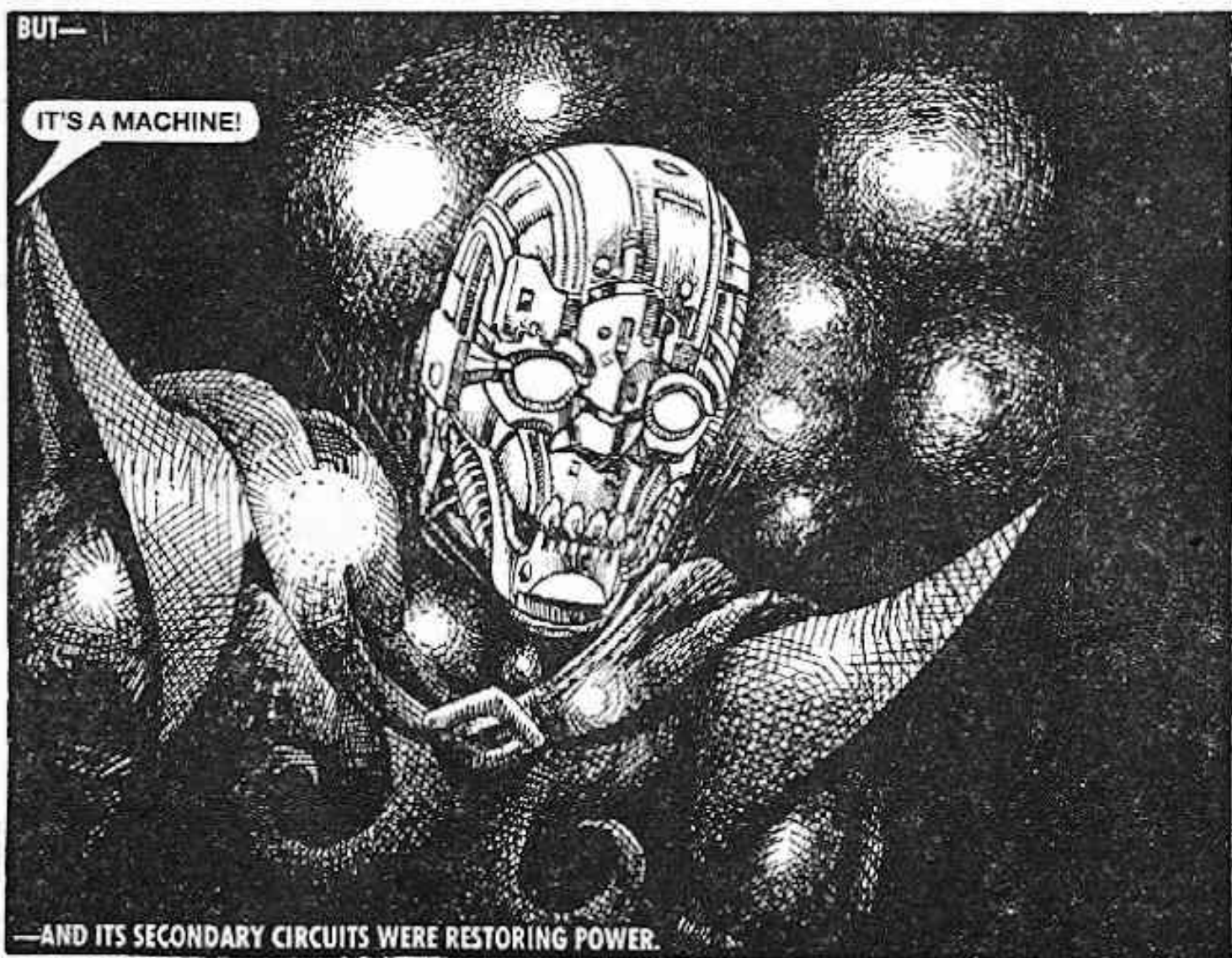
A HUGE BAULK OF TIMBER WAS DROPPED—

WHAT DO THESE SACKS
HOL...AAAAH!



AT LAST, A BLOW HAS
BEEN STRUCK FOR FREEDOM!





THE KNIGHT LEAPT UP—

IT'S THE DEVIL'S
WORK, JAMOS!

THEN I'LL FIGHT THE
DEVIL FOR FREEDOM!

THERE MUST BE A CHINK IN
THE ARMOUR SOMEWHERE...

THE DAMAGED KNIGHT WAS
DISORIENTATED BUT STILL MORE
THAN A MATCH FOR JAMOS.



THE PROBLEM IS TO FIND
THE WEAKNESS! AAAH!

I SNAP YOUR PUNY WEAPON JUST
AS I WILL BREAK YOUR WEAKLING
BONES!





IF THIS DOESN'T STOP THE
KNIGHT I'M A DEAD MAN.

JAMOS, THE POOR FARMER, THREW HARD AND TRUE—



AAAA! MALFUNCTION! CIRCUITS
GOING INTO OVERLOAD!

11

SPARKS FLEW FROM THE CRIPPLED KNIGHT.

THE DEVIL'S OWN FIRES
HAVE SET LIGHT TO THE BARN.

COME ON, WE MUST GET OUT
BEFORE THE FLAMES CLAIM US
AS WELL.

FIGHTING MEN FROM THE AIRSHIP HAD RACED TO INVESTIGATE THE PILLAR OF SMOKE RISING FROM THE BARN.



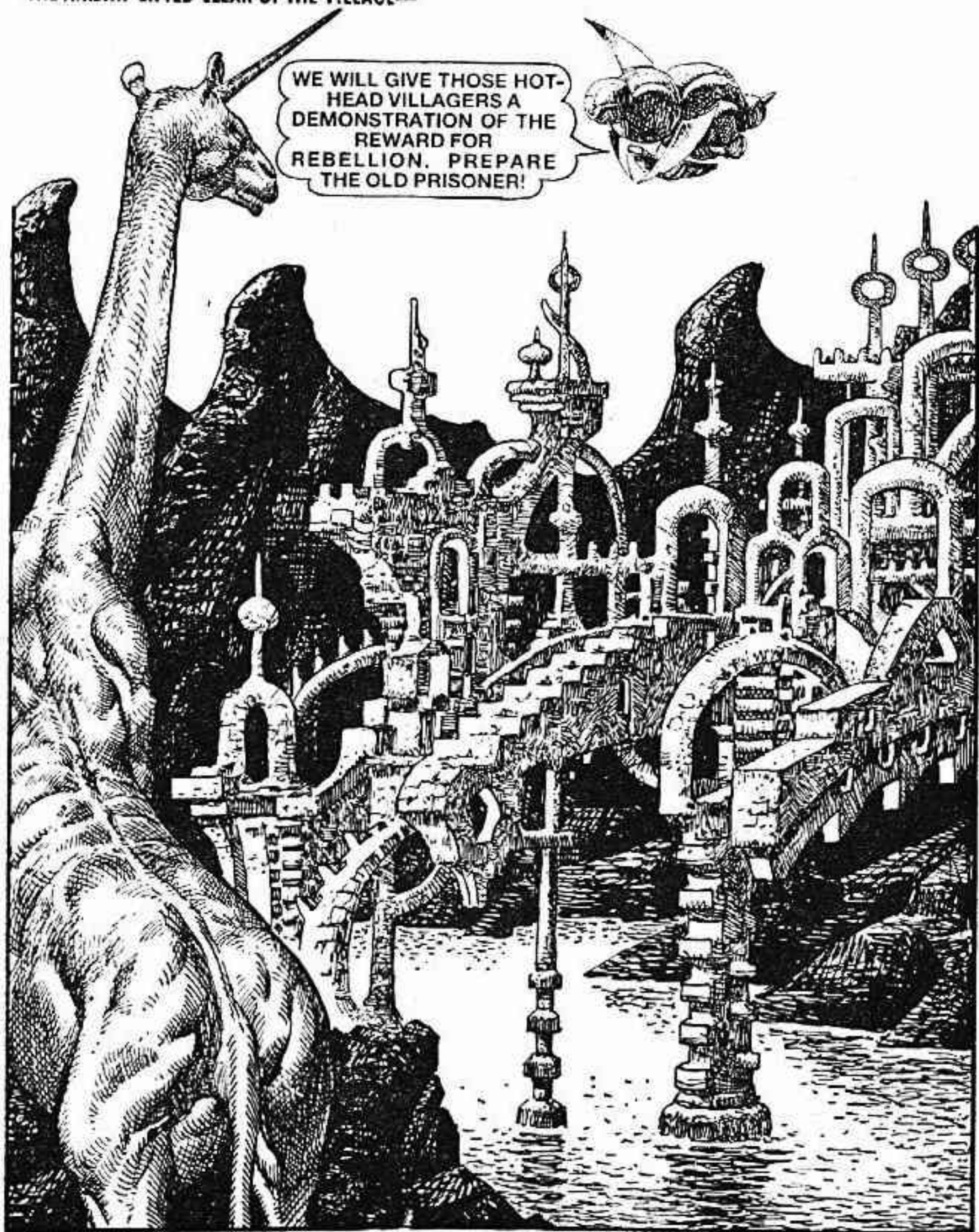
OH SPLOD! OUT OF THE FIRE INTO THE FRYING PAN!

WHERE IS OUR KNIGHT?



THE AIRSHIP LIFTED CLEAR OF THE VILLAGE—

WE WILL GIVE THOSE HOT-
HEAD VILLAGERS A
DEMONSTRATION OF THE
REWARD FOR
REBELLION. PREPARE
THE OLD PRISONER!





THE SOLDIER LAUGHED AND SOON JAMOS GOT HIS ANSWER WHEN HE SAW THE CITADEL OF THE TYRANT.

YOUR KNIGHTS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN MACHINES. DID YOU KNOW THAT? YOU OBEY ORDERS GIVEN BY MACHINES.

SILENCE PRISONER, OR I WILL CUT THE LYING TONGUE FROM YOUR HEAD.



THE AIRSHIP LANDED WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE CASTLE...

DEAR ME, OUR SOLDIERS HAVE RETURNED
WITH VERMIN. I HOPE WE WON'T BE EXPECTED
TO EAT THAT!

FLESH EATERS!

THE PEOPLE HERE LIVE IN LUXURY WHILE THE
VILLAGERS BEYOND THEIR WALLS ARE STARVING.

AT THE CENTRE OF THE CASTLE, THE LORD RASPDEN SAT LIKE A BLOATED SPIDER...

HAVE THE MISERABLE
PRISONER DRAGGED IN TO
MY PRESENCE.





SO, THIS IS THE ONE WHO HAS PERFORMED THE IMPOSSIBLE AND KILLED ONE OF MY KNIGHTS. SUCH ACTION DESERVES A RARE PUNISHMENT.

I WILL RETURN HIM TO YOU IN DUE COURSE AS YOUR MOST LOYAL SERVANT.

I GIVE HIS UNWORTHY BODY INTO YOUR CARE, MASTER KNIGHT.



NO HUMAN CAN WITHSTAND THE TREATMENT WHICH A SERVO-KNIGHT CAN INFLICT.

EXCELLENT SPORT, MASTER KNIGHT!

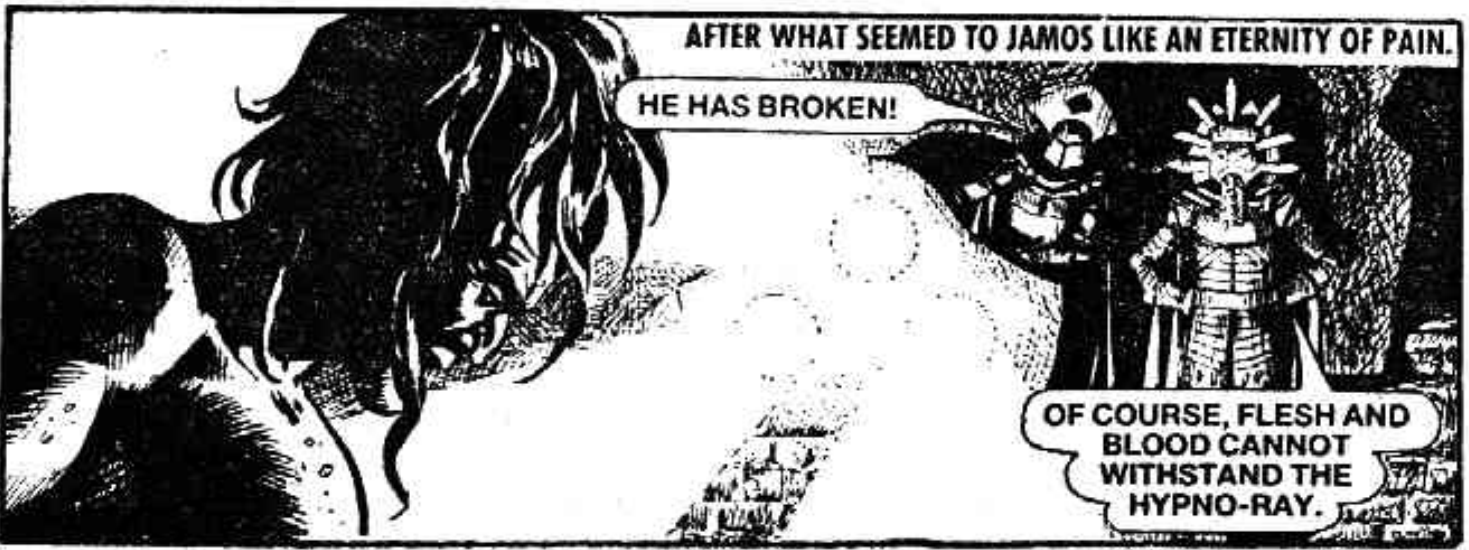
WITHIN THE CASTLE DUNGEONS JAMOS WAS POWERLESS TO RESIST THE TREATMENT HANDED OUT.

NO, I STILL DENY IT,
RASPDEN IS NOT ALL-WISE!



AFTER WHAT SEEMED TO JAMOS LIKE AN ETERNITY OF PAIN.

HE HAS BROKEN!



OF COURSE, FLESH AND
BLOOD CANNOT
WITHSTAND THE
HYPNO-RAY.



WHO IS YOUR ONLY
LORD AND MASTER?

RASPDEN... THE GREAT!

STAGE TWO OF THE TREATMENT WOULD FORCE JAMOS
TO MATCH HIS WORDS WITH DEEDS ABHORRENT TO
EVERYTHING HE'D EVER BELIEVED IN...


... HE WAS TRAINED IN THE USE OF THE
LASERSWORD, A WEAPON WIELDED ONLY BY LORD
RASPDEN'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD.

HA... HA! YOU LEARN FAST,
MY FRIEND.




THAT IS BECAUSE I AM
EAGER TO SERVE THE LORD
RASPDEN.

AT THE END OF THE TRAINING, JAMOS WAS ONCE AGAIN PRESENTED TO LORD RASPDEN.



A FINAL TEST OF YOUR LOYALTY
AWAITS YOU. GO TO THE
ARMOURER.

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS TRAINING BEGAN, JAMOS WAS ENTRUSTED WITH AN ENERGISED LASERSWORD — A RELIC OF THE PRE-WAR TECHNOLOGY.



ONE OF MY PRISONERS HAS ASKED FOR TRIAL
BY COMBAT. THE YOUTH JAMOS WILL ACT AS
MY CHAMPION IN THE TRIAL.

THE PRISONER IS A
FORMER FRIEND OF JAMOS.



THE HYPNO-RAY TREATMENT
WILL MAKE YOUR CHAMPION
LOYAL TO YOU ALONE.



JAMOS, OLD FRIEND, WE THOUGHT
YOU'D BEEN EXECUTED. ARE YOU
HERE TO FIGHT THE LORD'S
CHAMPION AS WELL?




I AM THE LORD'S
CHAMPION ...


... DEATH TO THE ENEMIES
OF MY MASTER!

AIIIIII! HE IS
BEWITCHED!





YOU HAVE THE BETTER
OF ME, OLD FRIEND!



ARRGH! I AM AT YOUR MERCY,
JAMOS, AND IT SEEMS YOU HAVE
NONE.



WHAT FATE DO YOU DECREE FOR
YOUR DEFEATED PRISONER, MY
MASTER?

DEATH!

IT IS AS MY
MASTER COMMANDED.

HE NEVER HESITATED, YOU HAVE
DONE YOUR WORK WELL, MASTER
KNIGHT.

HE WOULD KILL HIMSELF IF YOU ORDERED
HIM TO! HIS LOYALTY IS ABSOLUTE.

THE DEEPEST CRUELTY OF THE PRISONER'S DEATH WAS THAT, DEEP DOWN, JAMOS HAD AN AWARENESS OF THE AWFUL THING HE'D DONE.


I HAVE MURDERED A FRIEND AND I WAS POWERLESS TO STOP MYSELF.

JAMOS WAS NOW A FULLY FLEDGED MEMBER OF THE CASTLE FORCES AND TOOK PART IN HIS MASTER'S CAMPAIGNS.

THE MEN ARE ALL ON BOARD!
PREPARE TO RELEASE ANCHORS!



THE WEATHER WAS FAVOURABLE FOR AN
EXPEDITION TO THE HILLS BEYOND THE PLAIN.



WE ARE HEADING FOR THE
RUINS OF A CITY WHICH
EXISTED BEFORE THE
ENERGY WARS, GUARD
JAMOS.

THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF EXPERIMENTS
WITH FORBIDDEN TECHNOLOGY AND, AS YOU
KNOW, MACHINES ARE NOT ALLOWED BEYOND
THE CASTLE WALL.

THEN THEY MUST
BE DESTROYED.



BUT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF LIFE IN THE RUINS OF THE PRE-WAR CITY.

WE WILL RETURN AT NIGHTFALL WHEN
THE LIGHTS OF UNLAWFUL TECHNOLOGY
WILL BE EASY TO SEE!



THE AIRSHIP CRUISED AROUND UNTIL SUNSET WHEN THE CREW WERE REWARDED WITH A SIGHTING.

THAT'S AN ILLEGAL LIGHT!
PREPARE FOR ACTION, WE'RE
GOING IN!



BUT THE LIGHT HAD NOT BEEN SHOWN ACCIDENTALLY —

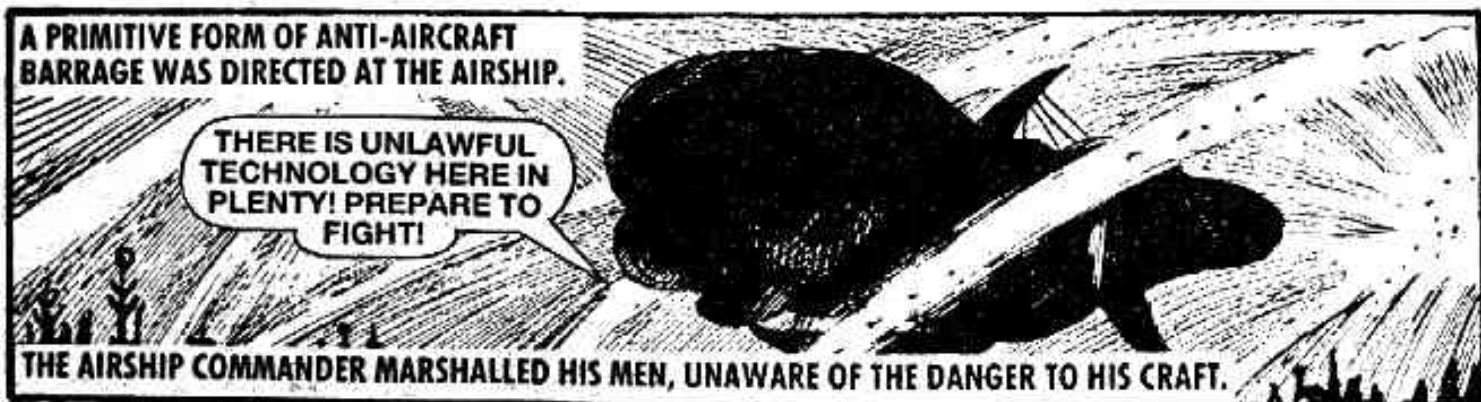
QUICKLY, SET UP THE ROK-ETS LIKE THE WISE ONE TOLD US TO! THE BAD-MEN ARE HERE.



A PRIMITIVE FORM OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT BARRAGE WAS DIRECTED AT THE AIRSHIP.

THERE IS UNLAWFUL TECHNOLOGY HERE IN PLENTY! PREPARE TO FIGHT!

THE AIRSHIP COMMANDER MARSHALLED HIS MEN, UNAWARE OF THE DANGER TO HIS CRAFT.





AIII! THE SAIL
IS ON FIRE!

I'LL TRY TO
CUT IT FREE!

IT IS MY DUTY TO SAVE
LORD RASPDEN'S AIRSHIP.

BUT THE FLAMES SPREAD.

BUT THE AIRSHIP
WAS DOOMED.

AIII! WE ARE
GOING TO CRASH!

WITH THE SOUND OF SPLINTERING WOOD AND THE CRACKLE OF BLAZING CANVAS,
THE AIRSHIP CAME TO GRIEF IN THE RUINS.



SEARCH OUT THE SURVIVORS!
THEY MUST ALL DIE.

JAMOS HAD BEEN THROWN CLEAR OF THE AIRSHIP
ONLY MOMENTS BEFORE THE CRASH.



MY HEAD ... IT FEELS DIFFERENT!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED ...

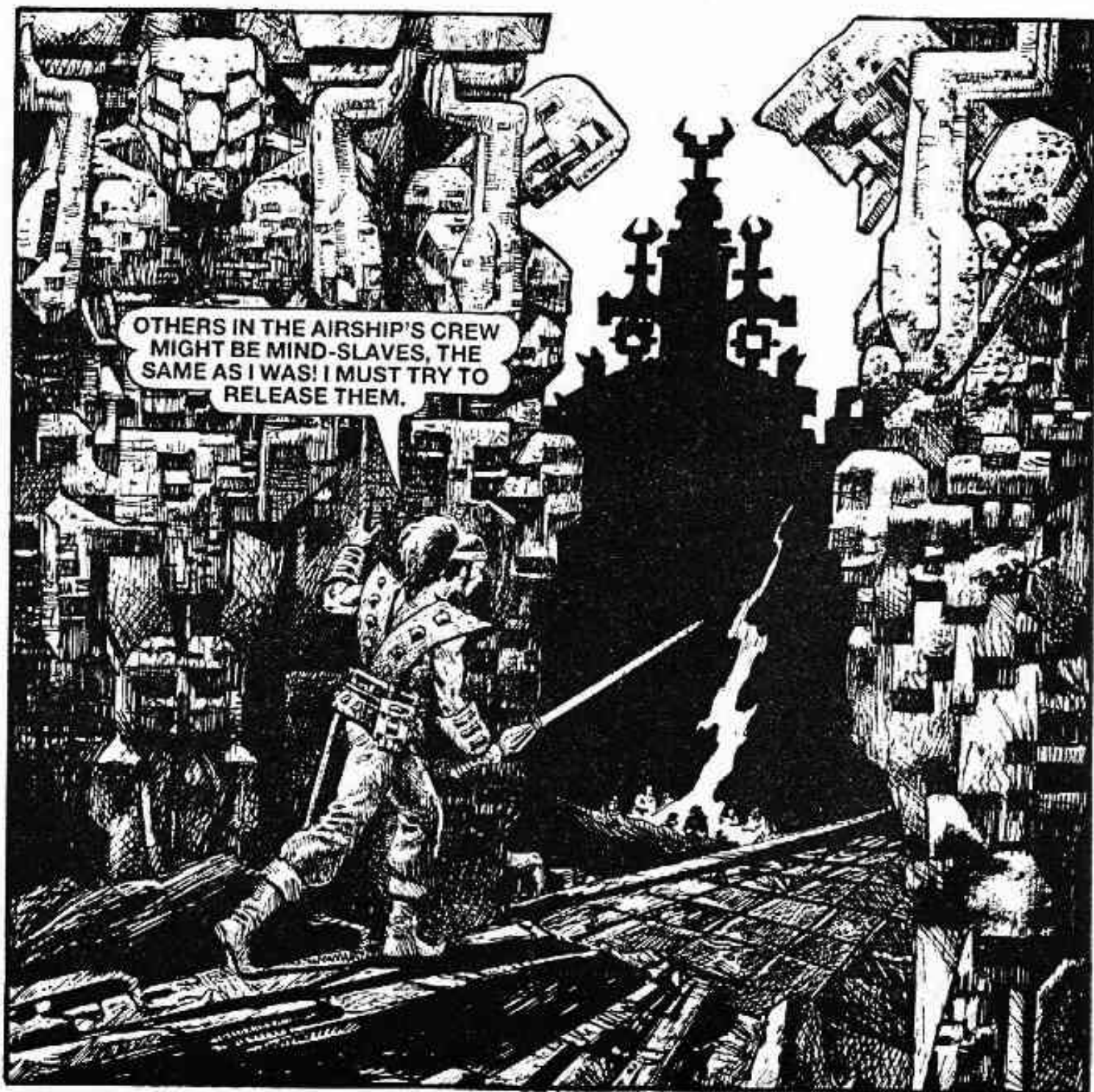
BY HAPPY CHANCE, THE SCAVENGING PEOPLE OF
THE RUINED CITY FAILED TO FIND JAMOS ...





THE EVENTS OF THE PREVIOUS MONTHS CAME
FLOODING BACK —

I'M FREE OF THE INFLUENCE OF
THE HYPNO-RAY. THE SHOCK OF
THE AIRSHIP CRASH HAS
RETURNED MY MIND TO ME.



OTHERS IN THE AIRSHIP'S CREW
MIGHT BE MIND-SLAVES, THE
SAME AS I WAS! I MUST TRY TO
RELEASE THEM.

BUT FOR THE SURVIVORS OF THE AIRSHIP, THE HYPNO-RAY WAS THE LEAST OF THEIR PROBLEMS AS THE SCAVENGERS PREPARED THEM FOR DEATH...

AFTER YOU HAVE DANCED ON THE GALLOWS, EVIL ONE, YOUR BODY WILL BE CAST INTO THE FLAMES.

I WAS JUST OBEYING ORDERS.

THESE SOLDIERS MAY SERVE RASPDEN, BUT THEY ARE NOT GUILTY OF HIS CRIMES!






THE STRANGER SPOKE TO THE SCAVENGERS IN THEIR LANGUAGE AND ORDERED THE SAFE KEEPING OF THE SURVIVORS OF THE CRASH.

WE WILL SPEAK IN MY SECRET LABORATORY, AFTER I HAVE ENSURED THAT NO HARM WILL COME TO YOUR COMRADES.

LATER, IN A CELLAR ROOM UNDER THE RUINS, THE STRANGER INTRODUCED HIMSELF ...

I AM GWYNNE, WHO TOO, USED TO BE A SLAVE OF THE HYPNO-RAY. DUE TO A CERTAIN RESISTANCE TO IT, I WAS ABLE TO FIGHT IT ... AND EVENTUALLY SHAKE FREE.

HAVE YOU PLANS TO STRIKE BACK AT RASPDEN?



IT IS NOT RASPDEN WE NEED
TO DEFEAT . . . IT IS HIS KNIGHTS.

GWYNNE EXPLAINED THE ORIGINS OF THE KNIGHTS.

THE KNIGHTS ARE SURVIVORS
FROM THE FOURTH ENERGY WARS,
WHICH ALMOST DESTROYED LIFE
ON THIS PLANET.

THE AMBUSH WITH THE ROCKETS WAS SET UP IN THE HOPE OF CAPTURING A KNIGHT'S ARMOUR TO USE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THEM AND THE CASTLES. THAT IS THE SECRET OF THEIR POWER.



THE NEXT DAY, GWYNNE AND JAMOS LEFT THE RUINED CITY TO JOURNEY TO THE VILLAGE WHERE JAMOS HAD ONCE LIVED.

IT WILL BE GOOD TO SEE MY HOME AGAIN.

DON'T MAKE PLANS TO STAY AT HOME, JAMOS, BECAUSE I WILL NEED YOU IN MY FIGHT AGAINST THE KNIGHTS.



BUT NEWS HAD SPREAD TO THE VILLAGE THAT JAMOS WAS A LOYAL SERVANT TO THE HATED LORD RASPDEN...

JAMOS! THE MURDERING SWINE HAS DARED TO COME BACK!

WE'LL KILL HIM, JUST AS HE KILLED HIS KINSMAN IN THE CASTLE.





BUT THE VILLAGERS WEREN'T INTERESTED ...



THE VILLAGERS PREPARED AN ANCIENT MODE OF EXECUTION.



GWYNNE HAD VISITED THE VILLAGE BEFORE, AND WAS KNOWN TO THE HEADMAN ...

STOP THE EXECUTION! JAMOS
WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR
KINSMAN'S DEATH.

STOP, I SAID. IF WE
ABANDON TRUTH AND
JUSTICE WE ARE NO
BETTER THAN
RASPDEN!

THE ARMOUR OF THE KNIGHT
YOU KILLED WAS RECOVERED
FROM THE ASHES OF THE BARN
AND IS STORED SAFELY IN A
SECRET PLACE.

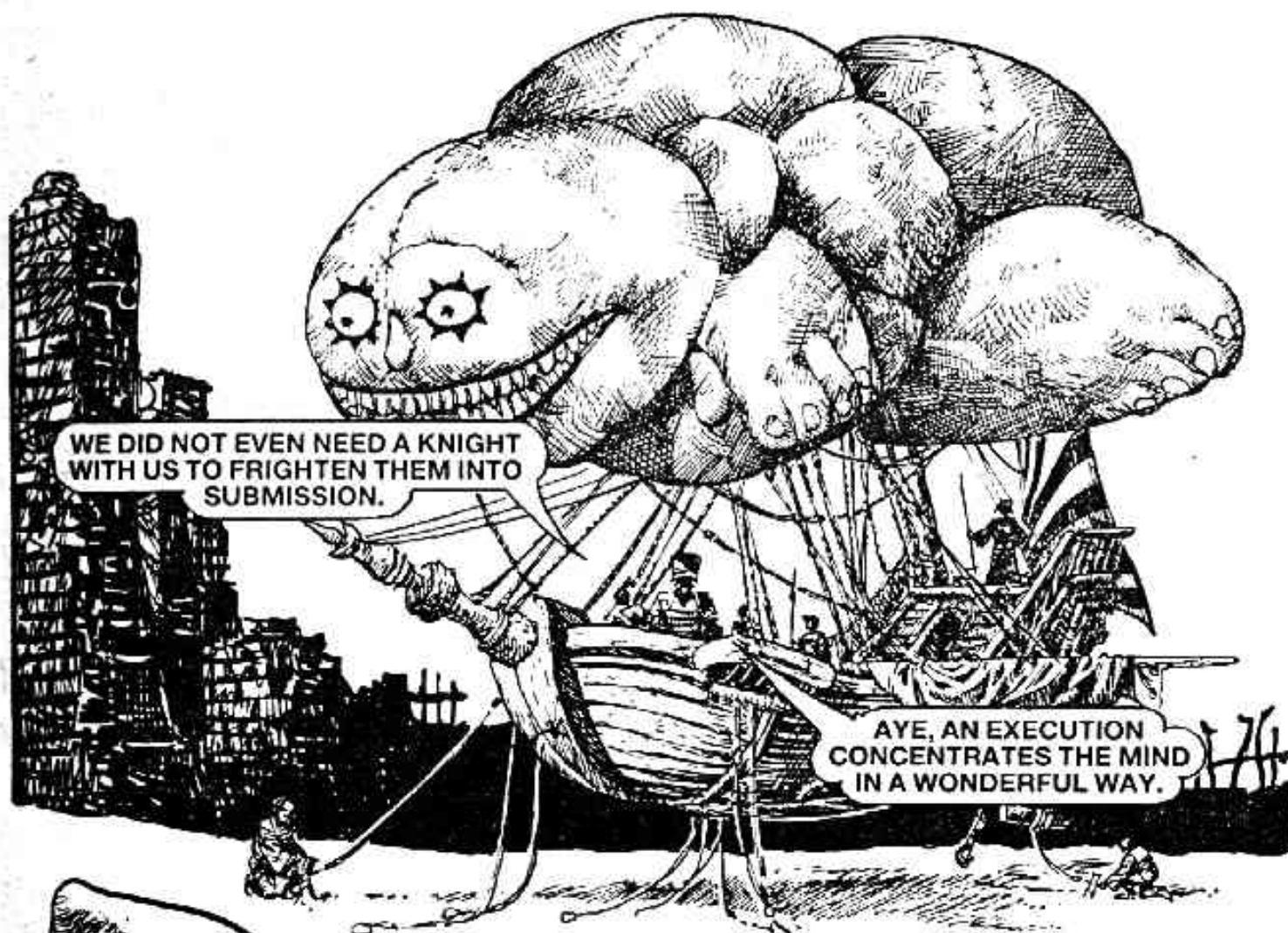




GWYNNE'S PLAN WAS PUT INTO OPERATION AT THE NEXT TAX GATHERING TIME. BOTH GWYNNE AND JAMOS WERE CONCEALED INSIDE STORAGE JARS.

THESE VILLAGERS SEEM TO HAVE LEARNED THEIR LESSON AFTER LAST YEAR'S DEFIANCE. THEIR TAX IS A RECORD WEIGHT!



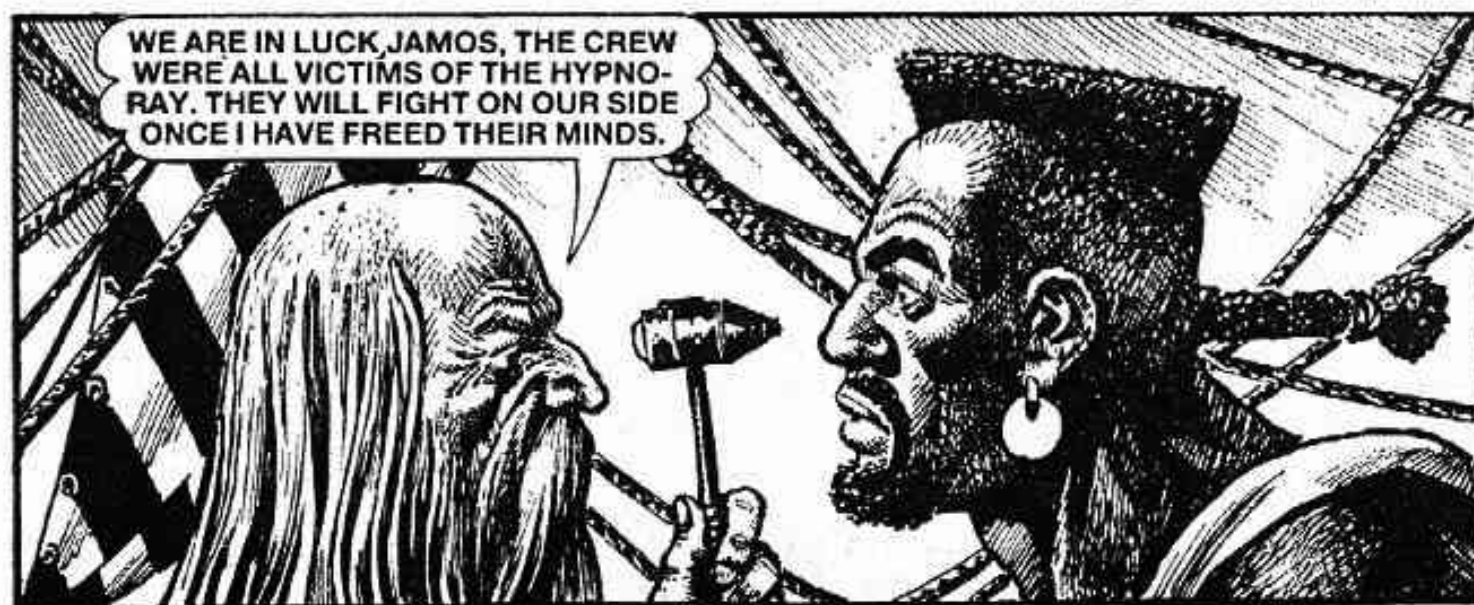


JAMOS CAREFULLY OPENED THE JAR.

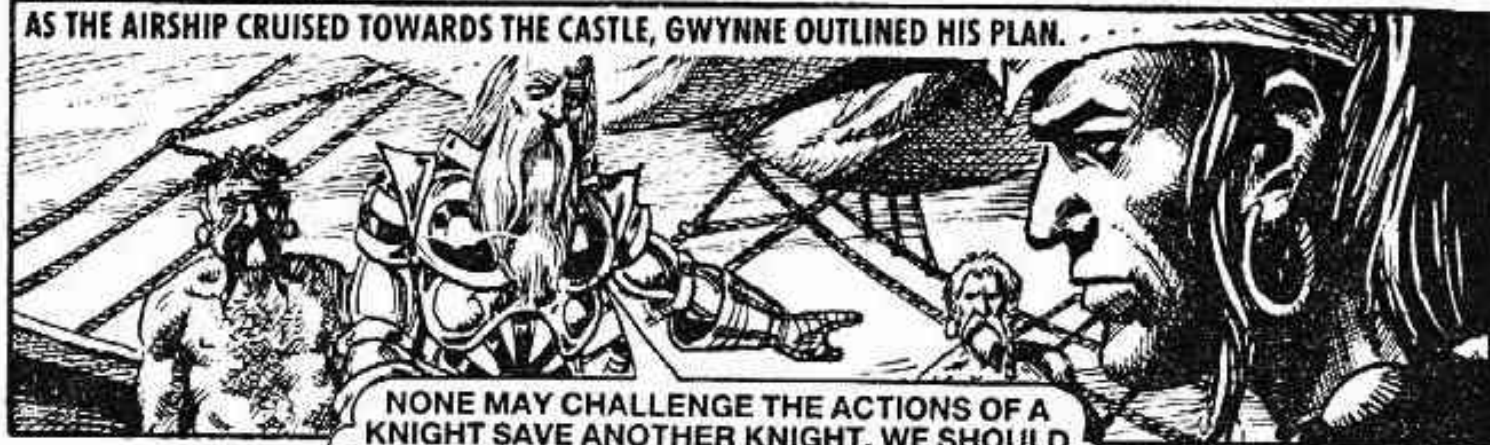
ARGH! WE HAVE A STOWAWAY
FROM THE VILLAGE.

THERE'S ONLY A HANDFUL
OF CREW BECAUSE THEY
NEEDED SPACE FOR THE
TAX. IT WILL BE A SIMPLE
TASK TO OVERPOWER
THEM.

A COMMON SOLDIER IS NO
MATCH FOR ONE WHO WAS ONCE
IN RASPDEN'S BODYGUARD.



AS THE AIRSHIP CRUISED TOWARDS THE CASTLE, GWYNNE OUTLINED HIS PLAN. . . .



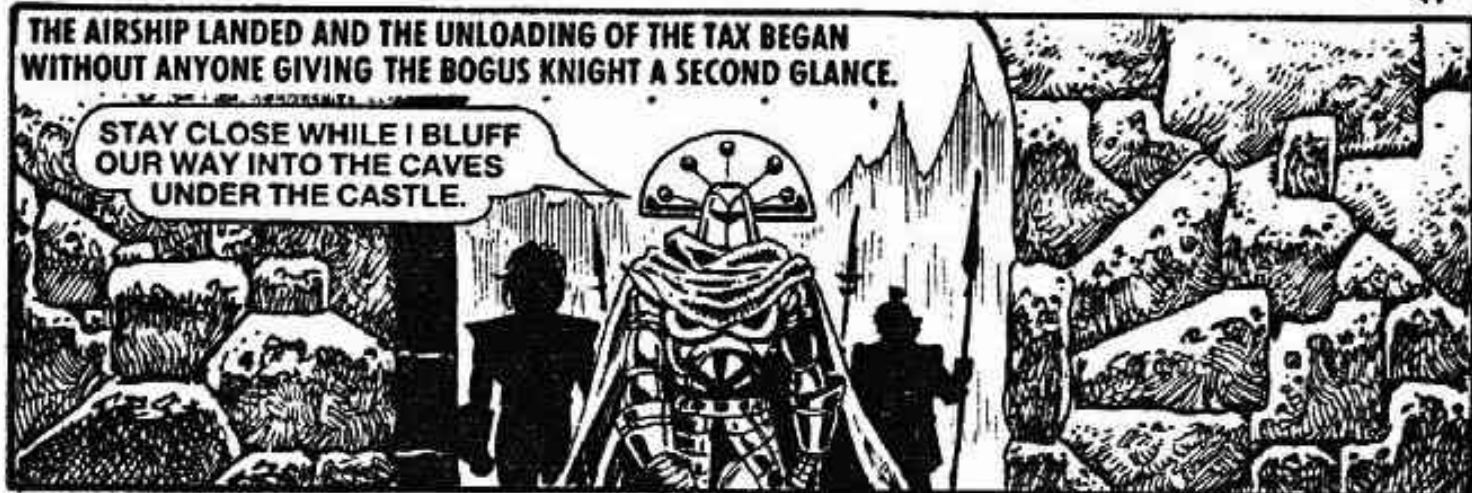
NONE MAY CHALLENGE THE ACTIONS OF A KNIGHT SAVE ANOTHER KNIGHT. WE SHOULD THEREFORE BE ABLE TO GAIN EASY ENTRANCE TO THE SECRET PLACES OF THE CASTLE.



SOMEWHERE IN THE CAVERNS UNDER THE CASTLE IS THE SECRET SOURCE OF THE POWER OF THE KNIGHTS.

THE AIRSHIP LANDED AND THE UNLOADING OF THE TAX BEGAN WITHOUT ANYONE GIVING THE BOGUS KNIGHT A SECOND GLANCE.

STAY CLOSE WHILE I BLUFF OUR WAY INTO THE CAVES UNDER THE CASTLE.



JUST AS GWYNNE HAD PLANNED, THE KNIGHT'S ARMOUR WAS AN INSTANT PASSPORT TO EVERY PART OF THE CASTLE.

THIS USED TO BE A FORBIDDEN ZONE AND COULD THEREFORE BE WHERE THE SECRET POWER SOURCE OF THE KNIGHTS IS HELD.







JAMOS JUMPED TO SAFETY—

BUT HIS ENERGY LANCE WILL FRY
ME TO A CRISP IF IT MAKES
CONTACT.



JAMOS, IN AN ACT OF DESPERATION,
SWUNG FROM THE OVERHEAD BEAM
ONTO THE KNIGHT'S BACK.

LUCKILY I KNOW YOUR
WEAK SPOT, SIR KNIGHT.



EAT LASERSWORD,
SIR KNIGHT!






JAMOS SOON FORCED THE LOCK
IN THE DOOR WHICH THE
KNIGHT HAD BEEN
GUARDING —

OH, NO! IT IS WORSE
THAN I FEARED!

ANDROID KNIGHTS! THEY HAVE
DISCOVERED HOW TO CONSTRUCT
MORE OF THEIR OWN KIND.
UNLESS WE STOP THEM THE
WORLD WILL BE FOREVER
ENSLAVED.

DESTROY THEM!

NO! LET'S TRY TO SHOW
THIS MACHINE TO THE
SOLDIERS AND GIVE
THEM PROOF THAT THE
KNIGHTS ARE
MACHINES.



THE SHOCK OF SEEING
THAT KNIGHTS ARE
MACHINES SHOULD
BREAK THE INFLUENCE
OF THE HYPNO-RAY
AND TURN THE
SOLDIERS AGAINST
RASPDEN.


IT'S A GAMBLE BUT IT'S
WORTH A TRY.

ONLY THE DESTRUCTION OF EVERY KNIGHT
WOULD LIBERATE THE OPPRESSED LAND.

UNAWARE OF EVENTS IN HIS CELLARS, THE LORD RASPDEN WAS ACKNOWLEDGING THE COMPLETION OF THE TAX COLLECTION.



THEN SUDDENLY AN ANGRY VOICE INTERRUPTED THE CEREMONY.



THE PEOPLE WILL STARVE
BECAUSE OF THE FOOD YOU
HAVE STOLEN FROM THEM,
RASPDEN.

IT IS JAMOS BACK
FROM THE DEAD!

IN A VOICE WHICH ALL COULD HEAR, JAMOS
DEFIED THE LORD RASPDEN.

YOUR POWER WOULD BE NOTHING WITHOUT YOUR
ACCURSED MACHINES, RASPDEN.

THE BODY OF A KNIGHT HIT THE GROUND AND BROKE INTO A THOUSAND MECHANICAL COMPONENTS.

THE SECRET OF THE KNIGHTS IS REVEALED! THIS MEANS THE END OF MY POWER UNLESS MY KNIGHTS CAN CONTROL THE PEOPLE.

IT IS A TRICK! DESTROY HIM!

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A FIGHT ON OUR HANDS.




MEANWHILE, AN OFFICER SPOKE —



JUST AS GWYNNE HAD HOPED, THE POWER OF THE HYPNO-RAY SNAPPED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE KNIGHTS WERE MACHINES, AND THE SOLDIERS REBELLED.

WE'LL NOT HAVE MACHINES
TELLING US WHAT TO DO.





WE HAVE BEEN TRICKED! MEN SHOULD ONLY
TAKE THEIR ORDERS FROM OTHER MEN, NOT
FROM LUMPS OF METAL.



JAMOS REJOINED THE FIGHT—

STICK TO YOUR TASK LADS! THE KNIGHTS ARE
ONLY FEW AND WE ARE MANY!



I WILL DESTROY ALL YOU HUMANS WITH A
NEUTRON BOMB, AND THEN CREATE A NEW
POPULATION OF PERFECT MACHINES.



HUMAN BEINGS HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE IMPERFECT. THEY MUST ALL BE DESTROYED!



YOUR MAGIC SHIELD MAY PROTECT YOU, SIR KNIGHT, BUT NOT THE GROUND YOU STAND ON! LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU WALK ON AIR!






AS THE MASTER KNIGHT LOST ITS BALANCE THE
FORCE-FIELD BECAME A PERFECT SPHERE SURROUNDING
ITS BODY.

... GYROSCOPE UNSEATED ... BACK UP
SYSTEM WILL NOT RESPOND ... DIODE
OUT OF SYNC AND FAILING ... AND FAILING
... AND

COME BACK, MASTER
KNIGHT! GIVE ME
YOUR PROTECTION
OR THE MOB WILL
MURDER ME!


BUT THE GROSS, LUMBERING TYRANT TRIPPED—





THE TRAPPED POWER HAS
UNHINGED THE KNIGHT.

YES... IT MEANS THAT THE
KNIGHT IS DOOMED TO
DANCE TO HIS MAD DANCE
UNTIL THE POWER SOURCE IS
FINALLY EXHAUSTED.



LORD RASPDEN AND HIS
KNIGHTS ARE NO MORE! LONG
LIVE JAMOS, OUR NEW
MASTER!

BUT JAMOS DECLINED. GWYNNE WAS APPOINTED THE NEW MASTER OF THE CASTLE,
AND HIS STEWARDSHIP WAS THE START OF A GOLDEN AGE WHEN THE REWARDS OF
HARD WORK WERE SHARED, AND ENJOYED, BY ALL.

THE MAD ANDROID KNIGHT WAS PLACED ON A PEDESTAL AS A REMINDER TO ALL OF THE AWFUL CONSEQUENCES OF ALLOWING MACHINES TO BECOME MASTERS OF MEN.



YOU WERE EVIL AND CORRUPT. AND YOU TAINED ME. BECAUSE OF THE INNOCENT BLOOD ON MY HANDS, I AM DOOMED TO WANDER FOREVER, LIKE A LOST SOUL, TILL I HAVE RIGHTED MY WRONG.

DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S
OTHER *ACTION-PACKED*
ADVENTURE



NOW
ON
SALE



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COMMENTS

THE LASERSWORD

Plucked from the poverty of a farming community, he was trained to suppress his own people. Armed with a sword of great power he roamed the countryside. But deep in the recesses of his memory lay the key to his people's freedom — his lasersword.

